

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Harvey in conducting a telephone interview with Applicant's representative on July 13, 2004. During the interview, Applicant's representative explained differences between the claimed invention and the prior art, in particular the Balogh reference. As requested by the Examiner, claim 1 has been amended to add functional language to distinguish the claimed invention from Balogh.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., page 6, line 24 to page 7, line 6; page 7, lines 14-18).

Applicant's claimed invention is directed to a speaker system, including a sound box having an interior divided by a plurality of dividers into a plurality of air chambers, each of the air chambers being formed with an air passing hole on each of the dividers connected to at least a neighboring air chamber, and at least an air dissipating hole connected to the atmosphere. As recited in claim 1, an air cushion formed in at least one of the air chambers is depressurized through one or more of the air passing holes and air dissipating holes so as not to interfere with air cushions subsequently generated.

As shown in FIG. 2, a sound box 1 is divided into a plurality of air chambers 14a, 14b, 14c, and 14d, each of the air chambers providing a frequency response of the speaker 3 in different frequency bands. For example, when sound generated by the speaker 3 is within frequency band A, an air cushion is formed in the air chamber 14a, which is then depressurized through air dissipating hole 18a and air passing hole 20a. As stated on page 7, lines 4-6: "Since the air cushion can be depressurized rapidly after it has already actioned, it will not interfere with the air cushions generated subsequently."

Therefore, air passing holes provided in the Applicants' claimed invention efficiently depressurize and discharge each of the pressurized air cushions after its performance is completed, to ensure no interference with subsequent air cushions.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,054,748 to Balogh. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Balogh does not teach or suggest a speaker system in which an air cushion formed in at least one of the air chambers is depressurized through one or more of the air passing holes and air dissipating holes **so as not to interfere with air cushions subsequently generated.**

In Balogh, apertures are formed in phase shifting members of the RC type, which are connected to the membrane of a loudspeaker (see column 5, lines 12-18). Each phase shifting member has an acoustic resistance R_c and an acoustic mass m_c , where "acoustic resistance" is known to those of ordinary skill in the art as a component of acoustic impedance that opposes the flow of sound through a surface. In Balogh, the acoustic resistances are arranged in pairs (r_c and R_c , or r'_c and R'_c) and connected to the acoustic masses in parallel and in series for determining time constants and characteristic frequencies at which sound is transmitted.

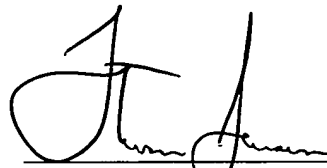
The acoustic resistances shown in FIG. 4 of Balogh would inevitably delay vibration of the membrane, and thus delay passage of air through the "chambers" in Balogh. Therefore, the acoustic resistances in Balogh are not capable of depressurizing air cushions **so as not to interfere with air cushions subsequently generated.**

Moreover, Balogh does not address the problem of accumulated pressurized air cushions in an air chamber, which is solved according to the Applicant's claimed invention. Because the acoustic resistances are connected to the membrane in Balogh to delay the passage of sound, the pressurized air cushions cannot pass through the apertures in a timely manner to prevent interference with subsequently generated air cushions. Therefore, Balogh does not teach or suggest air passing holes or air dissipating holes which depressurize an air cushion formed in at least one of the air chambers **so as to prevent interference with air cushions subsequently generated.**

For at least the reasons discussed above, Balogh does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious claim 1 of the Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claims 2 and 4 are patentable over Balogh.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter F. Corless", written over a horizontal line.

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